

In the Claims

What is claimed is:

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A shoe having an improved lacing system ~~for a shoe,~~
comprising:

a shoe;

a clasp having an anchoring end and a lace end, said lace end adapted to hold a
lace of the shoe;

said anchoring end having a first part and a second part where said first and sec-
ond parts are movable away from and toward one another;

a receiver having a first receptacle and a second receptacle for engaging said
first and second parts, respectively; and

said receiver is a removably attachable mechanism selected from the group con-
sisting of a button, hook, and combinations thereof;

wherein said clasp is removably joinable to said receiver when said first and
second parts are engaged with said first and second receptacles and, when said first
and second parts are disengaged with said first and second receptacles, said clasp is
separable from said receiver;

wherein said first and second parts are, when an opening force is applied to said
clasp, moved away from one another; and

wherein said receiver is removably attached to said shoe.

20. (previously presented) The lacing system according to claim 19, wherein said
first and second parts are biased toward one another such that, when the opening force
is removed, said first and second parts automatically move toward one another.

21. (currently amended) A method for providing a shoe with an improved lacing system ~~for a shoe~~, comprising the steps of:

- providing a shoe;
- providing a clasp having a receiver end and a lace end;
- extending a first part and a second part from the receiver end;
- extending a holder from the lace end;
- providing a receiver having a first receptacle and a second receptacle for receiving the first and second parts, respectively; wherein the receiver is a removably attachable mechanism selected from the group consisting of a button, hook, and combinations thereof;
- removably attaching the receiver to the shoe;
- moving the first and second parts toward one another and into the first and second receptacles, respectively, to removably join the clasp with the receiver; and
- wherein the clasp is removably joinable to the receiver for closing an item and the clasp is separable from the receiver for opening the item.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of moving the first and second parts away from one another and out of the first and second receptacles, respectively, to separate the clasp from the receiver.

Please add the following claims:

23. (new) The lacing system according to claim 19, wherein said button is a snap button.

24. (new) The lacing system according to claim 19, wherein said button is insertable.